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JAPANESE CHARCOAL MEN DENUDING SOIL

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Slowly but surely they are denuding the hillsides here of everything in the way of wood which may be converted into charcoal, or in the case of the smaller sticks, be tied up into bundles, which are sold in Chinatown for a few cents apiece.

The ravages made by these persistent woodcutters is increasingly apparent around Honolulu. A year or two ago the hill slopes in Manoa, Palolo, and other valleys were covered with dense growth, chiefly guava bushes, whose green foliage was refreshing to the eye, and whose fruit made excellent guava jelly, while their clinging roots prevented the loose soil from being washed down by the heavy rains, leaving nothing but naked rocks.

The scenery is changing fast under the attack of the ubiquitous Asiatic, who may at all times be seen cutting out everything that will burn. His industry is not confined to public land, or waste land to which he may have acquired woodcutting rights, but he will cheerfully trespass on any property where wood may be obtained, regardless of ownership.

It is to be regretted that the Promotion Committee, who have done so much for these islands, do not go further and initiate a Scenery Preservation Society, who would take vigorous measures to save our beautiful hills and valleys from being turned into howling wildernesses.

OBSERVER.

ARMY AND NAVY NEWS

(Continued from Page Ten.)

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Cavalry Band to Play.
If arrangements can be made, Colonel Schuyler, commandant of Leilehua post, will have the 5th Cavalry band play at the different military posts on this island. Leilehua is the only post having a band. Despite the size and importance of Fort Shafter, that post, with a garrison of only a battalion, does not boast of a band. Neither does the engineer post at Wai-iki or the marine camp at Camp Very. Colonel Schuyler is desirous of having all the military folk hear the Fifth's band, and it may therefore be heard all along the line.

May Be a General.

There is a rumor that Colonel Schuyler of the Fifth Cavalry, may be promoted to be brigadier-general sooner than he anticipates, and that if he is he will be assigned as commanding officer of the new military district of the Hawaiian Islands. This is in anticipation of the reinforcement of the military garrisons here. It is rumored that the Fifth will be complete before the end of the year and that the 20th Infantry will be joined by the remaining two battalions from the mainland, thus giving a colonel for that post. The site for the two battalions, which will have to be quartered in tents, is said to be the level plateau on the Honolulu side of the present post, where there is ample room and the drainage excellent. With such an addition and the taking over of the rice fields (to be filled in) just below Fort Shafter, for a maneuvering ground, Fort Shafter would assume great importance. Then with the addition of the four coast artillery companies to man the batteries, this unusual number of men would call for a brigadier-general to command, and that choice will most likely fall upon Colonel Schuyler, so rumor has it.

The Brigade Post.

The Army board to choose a site for the proposed brigade post has not selected the site for the permanent post. As has several times been stated there is available for commencing preliminary work on this post the sum of \$200,000, announcement having been made by Captain Castner several weeks ago and published in the Advertiser. The plans for the permanent post have not been received here yet, and until they are, Captain Castner will not be able to proceed with the work. As before stated, he expected to start work in June. An officer states that in all likelihood about three thousand men will be stationed here by the end of the present year, and possibly more.

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Cattle flies are bothering the life out of the cavalry mounts at Leilehua. Clouds of them settle on a horse's back and drive the animal frantic. The troopers have had recourse to the use of gunny sacks to cover the entire backs and haunches of the horses by day, while blankets, of course, cover them at night. Just how to get rid of the pest is a problem to the officers. Then horses become so restive that they are not under the best control during maneuvers.

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